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**Connecticut State Medical Society**  
**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5896 An Act Establishing A Nutrition Advisory**  
**Council**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**March 4, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of **House Bill 5896 An Act Establishing A Nutrition Advisory Council.**

CSMS and its physician members have long been advocates for establishing nutritional standards for children and other efforts to address the rapid increase in childhood obesity and diabetes. We well know that proper nutrition is equally important to physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, while most children are exposed to education regarding physical fitness and activity, most do not receive the same level of education regarding the importance of nutrition and its value in sustaining a long healthy life.

Such education should be built into our children's required curriculum. Understanding the value of proper nutrition is equally as important to the success of our youth as reading, writing and arithmetic. For that reason we support the establishment of an advisory council composed of healthcare professionals to develop a nutrition program and make recommendations on policy changes necessary regarding food access and hunger to be adopted by our school districts.

We look forward to the opportunity to work with this committee to ensure that such council has formal representation from appropriate specialties and that CSMS is involved in identifying the appropriate physicians to participate.

Please support HB 5896